

2.0 Alternatives Considered

2.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

2.1 Introduction

The proposed action that is the subject of this EA is the implementation of the proposed National Law Enforcement Museum as authorized by Public Law (PL 106-492). This EA analyzes two alternatives: the Museum Alternative and the No Action Alternative.

2.2 Museum Alternative

The proposed National Law Enforcement Museum is a complementary component to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The Museum will complete the transformation of the center portion of the Judiciary Square area from a series of surface parking lots serving the courts into a monumental-quality, park-like, national memorial and museum complex.

Proposed Museum Vision, Goals and Objectives

The NLEOMF's vision for the Museum can be summarized as "a national quality Museum to tell the story of Law Enforcement in America." This would be accomplished by establishing a compatible, yet distinctive, presence in its setting that accommodates the new entrance to the Old City Hall and enhances the north-south linkages and views. To guide the development of this vision, the NLEOMF identified eight objectives:

- create a defined outdoor Museum Entry area to accommodate visitation of 427,000 to 525,000 per annum.
- enhance adjacent historic resources;
- remove parking from the site, and along both sides of E street.
- improve pedestrian circulation on the site;
- coordinate with the Courts to develop a loading facility shared by the NLEM and the courts to minimize the vehicular servicing along E Street and the central Judiciary Square Area; and,
- provide sensitive solutions to landscape and streetscape security challenges.

2.3 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative assumes that the site would be left for use exclusively for the use of the D.C. Courts.

Under the No Action Alternative the Fund would be unable to accommodate the new National Law Enforcement Museum in conjunction with the Memorial at Judiciary Square since the Museum cannot be built on the Memorial site and there are no other sites with

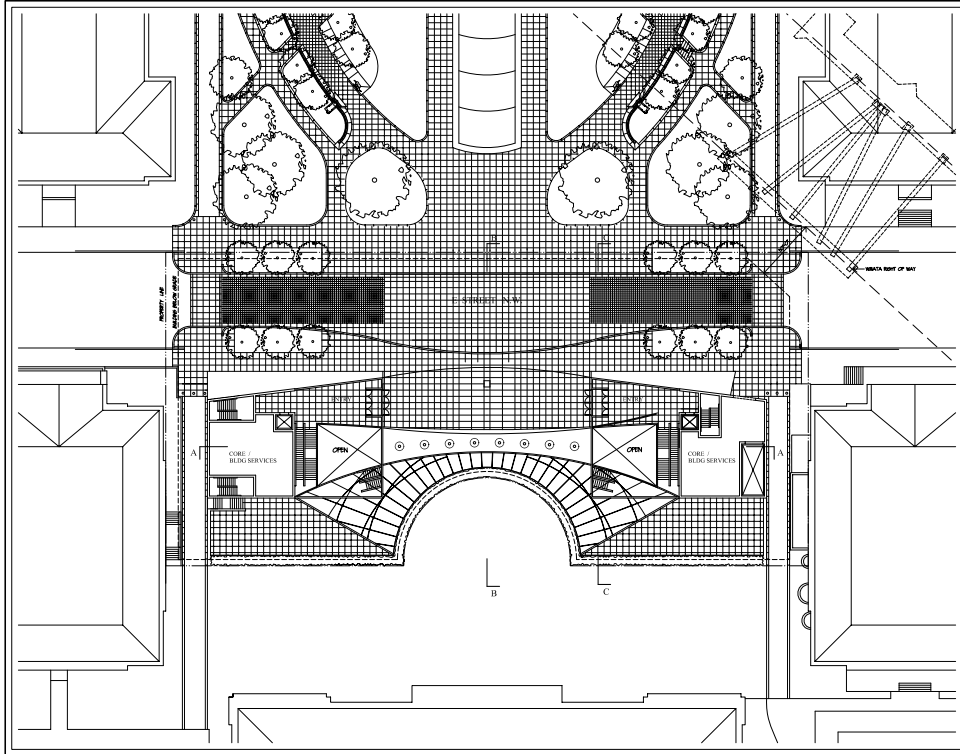
the appropriate connection to the Memorial. Since the establishment of a National Law Enforcement Museum has been authorized by Congress, implementation of the No Action Alternative would require further efforts to establish a National Law Enforcement Museum elsewhere in Washington.

2.4 Alternatives Considered But Eliminated

During the preparation of alternative approaches to the design of the Museum, several alternatives were examined but eliminated, as they would have an adverse impact on a national memorial and its landscaped setting. These alternatives differed specifically in the relationship of the museum entry plaza to the new north entrance to the Old City Hall and in the size and configuration of the Museum Entry Pavilions. These alternatives were eliminated for a variety of reasons. The alternatives are briefly discussed below:

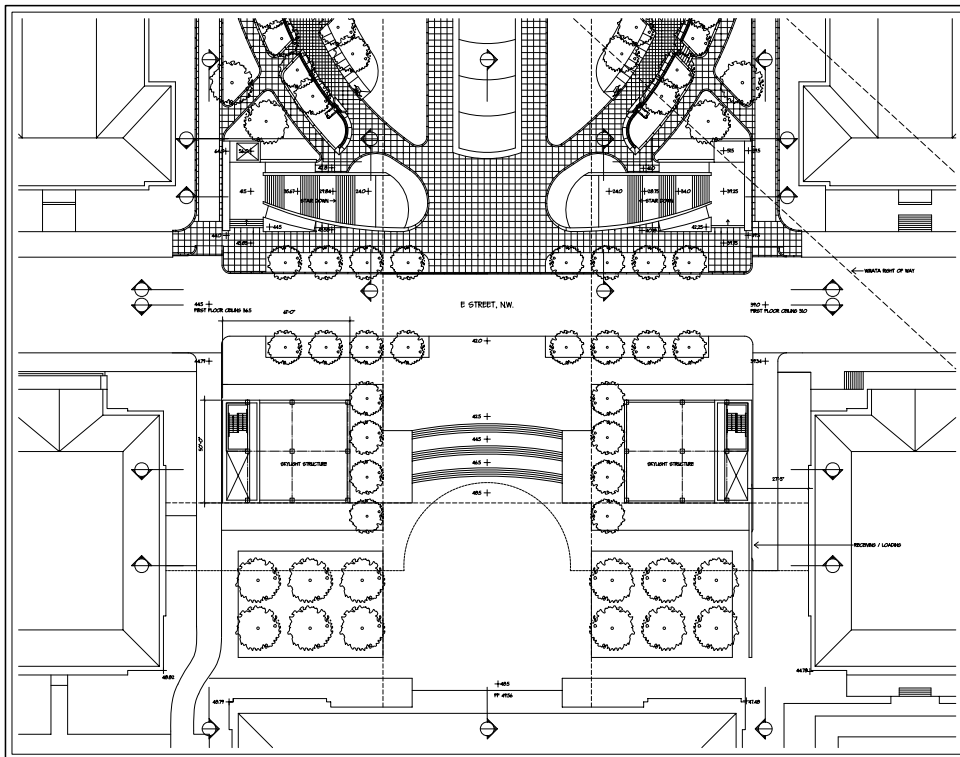
Site Plan Option 1: This option contemplated the linkage between the two entry pavilions, across the 100' wide view corridor established by the legislation, of a skylight as a visual tie between the pavilions that, as part of the roof of the below grade portion of the museum, would admit light into the central non-exhibit space, or Atrium of the museum. In this version (see fig. 2-1 on page 18), the massing of the pavilions was configured as two opposing wedge shapes with the higher portions of the roof toward the Court Buildings C and E. This version of the museum plan was submitted to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and approved for concept massing in April, 2003. Following this approval, the D.C. Court of Appeals presented a scheme for the addition of a new above-ground north entrance to the Old City Hall (Old Courthouse) building that envisioned the 100' wide view corridor being utilized to provide primary access, including handicapped access, via the Museum's Entry Plaza. Site Option 1 was not feasible in conjunction with the Courts' plan for a new north entrance.

Site Plan Option 2: This option contemplated placing the Museum Entry within the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial site. The study determined that the eastern entry structure area was un-buildable below grade due to the presence of the Metrorail station. This meant that all of the above-grade components of the entry structures would have to be on the west side, destroying the symmetry of the memorial and eviscerating the memorial's architecture. Further, the scheme was discussed with the National Park Service, which advised NLEOMF that it would not agree to museum entrances on memorial properties that it controls. (see fig. 2-2 on page 18)



SITE PLAN - OPTION 1

FIGURE 2-1



SITE PLAN - OPTION 2

FIGURE 2-2